# COMMITTEE
# ON
# GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
# (2009-2010)

**(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

# THIRD REPORT

**REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES**

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 16 December, 2009*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**
**NEW DELHI**

**December, 2009/Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)**

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## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
## (2009 - 2010)

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana
4. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
5. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
6. Shri Mohan Jena
7. Shri Raghuvir Singh Meena
8. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
9. Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy
10. Shri M. Raja Mohan Reddy
11. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
12. Shri Takam Sanjoy
13. Dr. M. Thambidurai
14. Shri Manohar Tirkey
15. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

SECRETARIAT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Smt. Veena Kumari | - | Deputy Secretary |

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* The Committee was constituted on 23 September, 2009 *vide* Para No. 580 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 23 September, 2009.

# INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Third Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2009-2010) at their sitting held on 29 October, 2009 considered Memorandum Nos. 2 to 51 containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 10 December 2009, the Committee (2009-2010) considered and adopted their Third Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this report.

NEW DELHI;

**MANEKA GANDHI**
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

10 December, 2009
---
Agrahayana 19, 1931 (Saka)

# REPORT

**While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. An assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. Where a Ministry are unable to implement the assurances within the prescribed period of three months, they are required to seek extension of time. In case, the Ministry find it difficult to implement the assurances on one ground or the other, they are required to approach the Committee on Government Assurances requesting to drop the assurances. Such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an assurance or otherwise.**

**2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) considered the following requests received from Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances:-**

| SQ/USQ No. & Date | Subject in Brief | Ministry |
|---|---|---|
| General Discussion dated 12 May 1993- Point Raised | Creamy Layer Committee formed by Uttar Pradesh Government | Social Justice & Empowerment |
| Unstarred Question No. 3533 dated 12 December, 2000 | Integrated Education for Disabled | Human Resource Development |
| Unstarred Question No. 2569 dated 14 March, 2001 | Visit of Dignitaries | External Affairs |
| Starred Question No. 125 dated 10 December, 2003 | Creation of Additional Capacity in Ports | Shipping, Road Transport & Highways |
| Unstarred Question No. 401 dated 2 March, 2005 | Revival of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd | Shipping, Road Transport & Highways |
| Unstarred Question No. 955 dated 22 November, 2007 | Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline | Petroleum & Natural Gas |
| Unstarred Question No. 5271 dated 5 May, 2008 | Cargo Flights in Postal Services | Communications and Information Technology |
| Unstarred Question No. 765 dated 24 November, 1997 | Construction of Freedom Memorial | Culture |
| Unstarred Question No. 2772 dated 19 March, 2008 | Energy Policy | Planning |
| Unstarred Question No. 2502 dated 17 March, 2008 | Agreement of HAL with Boeing | Defence |
| Unstarred Question No. 2951 dated 20 March, 2008 | Shortage of Railway Quarters | Railways |
| Unstarred Question No. 4175 dated 22 April, 2008 | Trade Talks under WTO | Commerce & Industry |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Unstarred Question No. 3048 dated 20 March, 2008** | **Overseas Joint Ventures** | **Chemicals & Fertlizers** |
| **Unstarred Question No. 5331 dated 5 May, 2008** | **Neighbourhood Apparel and Textile Training Institute for Job Assurance** | **Textiles** |
| **Unstarred Question No. 160 dated 25 July, 2006** | **Tribal Reserved Constituency in Sikkim Legislature** | **Home Affairs** |
| **Unstarred Question No. 338 dated 19 February, 2009** | **Luxury Tourist Trains** | **Railways** |
| **Supplementary to Starred Question No. 329 dated 14 December, 2006** | **Transportation of Gas** | **Petroleum & Natural Gas** |
| **Unstarred Question No. 2488 & 602 dated 4 December, 2007 & 21 October, 2008** | **Reformation of Education Policy and New Education Policy respectively** | **Human Resource Development** |
| **Unstarred Question No. 3360, 6100, 2823 & 2713 dated 24 March, 2005, 5 May, 2005, 11 August, 2005 & 19 March, 2007** | **Closure of DFP & Song & Drama Division, Abolition of Posts, Recommendations of Expenditure Reform Commission & Closure of Directorate of Film Festivals respectively** | **Information & Broadcasting** |
| **Unstarred Question No. 2275 dated 14 March, 2008** | **Pancheshwar Power Project** | **Power** |
| **Starred Question No. 595 dated 6 May, 2005** | **National Policy on Subsidies** | **Finance** |

**3. The details of the assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced for dropping of assurances are given in Appendix-I.**

**4. After having considered the grounds cited by the Ministries/Departments, the Committee decided to drop the aforesaid assurances.**

**5. The Minutes of various sittings of the Committee, whereunder the decisions to drop the assurances are given in Appendix-II.**

NEW DELHI;

**MANEKA GANDHI**
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

10 December, 2009
---
Agrahayana 19, 1931 (Saka)

Appendix-I
(*vide Para 3 of the Report)*

## [i] CREAMY LAYER COMMITTEE FORMED BY UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT

On 12 May 1993 Shri Chandrajeet Yadav, M.P., during General Discussion on a point raised by him on the matter of Creamy Layer Committee formed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh raised the following issue:-

> "That the persons nominated on the Creamy Layer Committee constituted by the Government had anti-reservation views. The Committee should be reconstituted."

2. In reply the then Minister of Home Affairs (Shri S.B. Chavan) stated as follows:-

> "Then Chandrajeet ji raised the point about the Creamy Layer Committee formed by the Uttar Pradesh Government. I will certainly look into this matter and if the members of that Committee are anti-Mandal as has been mentioned by Chandrajeet ji, I will see that those who understand the problem are represented in that Committee."

3. The above reply was treated as assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Home Affairs within three months from the date of reply i.e. by 11 August, 1993 but the assurance is yet to be implemented. In the year 2007, the Ministry of Home Affairs requested the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to accept the transfer of the matter for implementation. The request of the Ministry of Home Affairs was accepted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 31 August, 2007/5 September, 2007.

4. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment vide their O.M. No.16013/02/2007-BCC dated 24 November, 2008 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "Since the assurance pertained to formation of the Creamy Layer Committee by the Uttar Pradesh Government, the State Government was requested to send the relevant information for fulfilling the assurance. Many reminders were sent to that State Government at all levels from the Ministry. A D.O. letter dated 23 July, 2008 was sent from the Additional Secretary to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh. But the State Government has not responded to any of the Ministry's letters".

5. In view of the position explained above, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have requested with the approval of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that the assurance may kindly be dropped from the list of assurances.

## [ii] INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

On 12 December, 2000, Shri Rajaiah Malyala, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3533 to the Minister of Human Resource Development:-

> "(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the scheme of Integrated Education for the disabled children;
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof and the status of all proposals; and
>
> (c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain) stated as follows:-

> "(a) Yes Sir.
>
> (b) All the proposals under the Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) received so far from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of this scheme by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have been cleared by this Department. However, a proposal received from District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Andhra Pradesh for assistance through IEDC scheme is under consideration in consultation with the concerned Bureau & State Government. Clarifications have been sought from the State Government in respect of proposals received from three Voluntary Organisations.
>
> (c) They will be cleared immediately on receipt of clarification from the concerned."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months of the date of reply i.e. by 11 March, 2001 but the assurance is still pending.

4. The Ministry of Human Resource Development *vide* their O.M. No. F.No.13-16/2000-IE dated 13 March 2001 addressed to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and O.M of even number dated 14 May, 2008, have requested to drop the assurance on the following ground:-

> "that In respect of LSUSQ No. 3533 dated 12 December, 2000 by Shri Rajaiah Malyala, who has asked whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme of IEDC and the details and the status of the proposals, this Department has answered that no proposal from A.P. is pending in this Department. However, this Department will clear the proposals once the clarifications sought from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. In respect of a proposal DPEP, Andhra Pradesh and proposals received from NGOs under IEDC scheme are received in this Department. These clarifications have not yet been received in this Department so far. It may, therefore, be presumed that this Department has no cases

pending. Therefore, our answer does not constitute an assurance and it will not be feasible for this Department to fulfill the same for the cases are pending with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. For release of grants to DPEP (District Primary Education Programme) and three NGOs under IEDC (Integrated Education for Disabled Children) scheme, the State Government ought to have sent us the clarifications; but they have not done so."

5. Accordingly, the Ministry of Human Resource Development with approval of HRM have, therefore, requested to drop the assurance.

## [iii] VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

On 14 March, 2001 Shri Babubhai Khimabhai Katara, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2569 to the Minister of External Affairs:-

> "(a) the details of foreign delegations visited India from December 1, 2000, till;
>
> (b) the details of the Indian dignitaries they met, talks held and agreements signed; and
>
> (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the country on account of talks and agreements?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of State for External Affairs (Shri Ajit Kumar Panja) stated as follows:-

> "(a) to (c) : The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of External Affairs within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 13 June, 2001. The Ministry of External Affairs have submitted partial implementation statements bearing numbers SS-XXII/2 and SS-XXXVIII/2 on 22 December, 2004 and 18 May, 2006 respectively. They have now requested, *vide* their letter No.AA/125/Parl/55/2001 dated 14 August, 2007, the Committee to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "Despite 14 reminders since 2001, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have not given us their inputs to reply to the above question."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry of External Affairs with the approval of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs have requested the Committee to drop the assurance.

## [iv] CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IN PORTS

On 10 December, 2003 Shrimati Nivedita Mane and Shri C.N. Singh, MPs addressed the following SQ No. 125 to the Ministry of Shipping:-

"(a) whether the Government proposes to create additional capacity in major ports during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the participation of private sector for the purpose has been sought;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds earmarked for the creation of additional capacity during the said period;

(f) whether tariff authority for major ports has fixed tarrif ceiling and floor discount rate as directed by the Government; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?"

2. In reply to the above question, the then Minister of Shipping (Shri Shatrughan Sinha) stated as follows:-

"(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10$^{TH}$ DECEMBER, 2003 ASKED BY SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE AND SHRI C.N. SINGH REGARDING CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IN PORTS.

(a) Yes, Sir.
(b) The aggregate capacity in the 12 major ports at the end of the 9$^{th}$ Plan period on 31 March 2002 was 343.95 million tones per annum (MTPA). This capacity is anticipated to go upto 470.60 MTPA by the end of the 10$^{th}$ Five Year Plan on 31 March 2007. Thus, capacity addition of 126.65 MTPA is envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan in major ports.
(c) Yes Sir.
(d) Participation of private sector in expansion and development of the major ports has been sought in order to mobilize the resources required for the purpose and in order to improve efficiency, productivity and quality of service as well as bring in competitiveness in port services in consonance with the general policy of liberalization/globlisation of India's economy.
(e) An amount of Rs. 3325 crore has been allocated in the Tenth Plan outlay for projects, which will add to the capacity in major ports. This however, does not include private sector investment in development of ports.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Government has issued directions to Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) under Section 111 of the Major Ports Trusts Act, 1963 to fix the scale of rates as ceiling rates and to so specify in their notification fixing the rates so that the major ports have the flexibility to charge at reduced rates, if they so desire, to compete with others. Similarly, the discounts and rebates prescribed by TAMP in the scale of rates will act as the floor level and the port trusts will have the flexibility of giving higher discounts and rebates. Accordingly, in its order passed on 28 August 2003, TAMP has, *inter-alia*, amended the Scale of Rates of all the major ports trusts to insert the following general conditionality therein:-

"The rates prescribed in the Scale of Rates are ceiling levels; likewise, rebates and discounts are floor levels. The Port Trust may, if it so desires, charge lower rates and/or allow higher rebates and discounts. The above order has been notified by TAMP *vide* No.TAMP/53/2003-Genl. Dated 29 August 2003 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part III-Section 4."

3. Through a supplementary question, Smt. Nivedita Mane, MP asked whether the Government had identified the areas for private sector participation.

4. In his reply, the then Minister stated that apart from permission to 17 private parties for port development, requests were also received from 21 other parties and the same are under consideration.

5. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and the same was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Shipping within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 9 March, 2004 but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 30 September, 2008 to implement the assurance.

6. The Ministry of Shipping *vide* their O.M. No. PD-H-11016/20/2003-US(I) dated 18 March, 2004 requested for dropping the said assurance. This request was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 16 March, 2005 and it was decided not to drop the assurance. The decision of the Committee was conveyed to the Ministry. Accordingly, the Committee in their fourth report inter-alia desired that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the target of 126.65 MTPA was achieved during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

7. The Ministry of Shipping *vide* their O.M. No. PD-H-11016/20/2003-US(I) dated 10 April, 2008 have once again requested for dropping the above assurance on the following ground :

"that out of 21 projects, 8 projects already stand approved and 2 more projects are in the pipeline. Out of the remaining 11 projects, 4 projects have been deleted, 4 projects have been kept in abeyance. One project has been replaced and 3 projects are being restructured."

8. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways have requested to reconsider the matter and drop the assurance.

## [v] REVIVAL OF HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LTD

On 2 March, 2005 Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 401 to the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways:-

"(a) whether the Government proposes to revive the ailing Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?"

2. In reply, the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (Shri T.R. Baalu) stated as follows:-

"(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government is considering a Rehabilitation-cum-Restructuring Package for Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL). The proposal is still at a preliminary stage and includes inter-alia the following:-

(i) One time Grant to liquidate State Bank of India's dues.
(ii) Plan Assistance for up-gradation of Plant & Machinery.
(iii) A Loan for meeting other Outstanding Dues and grant-in-aid for payment of statutory dues.
(iv) One time Grant to meet Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) Liability.
(v) One time Grant to meet Sales Tax Liability.
(vi) Assistance for Fluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).
(vii) One time Grant for completion of the on-going projects.
(viii) Writing Off of Government Loan & Interest.
(ix) Waiver of Government Guarantee Fee."

3. This reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways within three months. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time up to 1.09.2008 to implement the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways vide their O.M. No. SY: 18012/1/2005-HSL dated 16 February, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the proposal of Rehabilitation-cum-Financial Restructuring of HSL was placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval and the CCEA in its meeting dated 19.4.07 decided that the matter may in the first instance be considered by a Group of Ministers (GoM). Presently the GoM is considering the proposal and after receipt of the final recommendations of the GoM, the proposal shall again be placed before the CCEA for approval.

The process leading to approval of the proposal by CCEA involves detailed scrutiny by various apprising agencies such as the Board for Reconstruction of Public Enterprises (BRPSE) and inter-ministerial consultations which are quite time consuming. Although assurances have been given that the Government is considering the proposal,

it would be difficult to arrive at a time frame for fulfilling the assurances. As the outcome of the proposal will depend on the deliberations of the GoM and the CCEA, fulfillment of these assurances is beyond the control of this Department. Therefore, Lok Sabha Secretariat is requested to drop this assurance from the list of pending assurances due to reasons mentioned above."

5. In view of the fact stated above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, have requested to drop the assurance.

## [vi] INDO-IRAN GAS PIPELINE

On 22 November, 2007 Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad and Shrimati Nivedita Mane, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.955 to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

> "(a) whether an arrangement has been arrived at between India and Pakistan regarding the sharing of gas from the proposed Indo-Iran gas pipeline;
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof, and
>
> (c) the time by which the pipeline project will commence?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Shri Dinsha Patel) stated as follows:-

> "(a) & (b): India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. 60 MMSCMD of gas is proposed to be supplied in Phase-I, to be shared equally between India and Pakistan. Various important issues are under discussion amongst the participating countries.
>
> (c): Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests as also to avoid any future problems in the successful operation of the project. Implementation of the project can commence only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas within three months of the date of reply *i.e.*, by 21 February, 2008, but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time till a decision is taken in the matter.

4. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* their O.M. Nos.L-15014/50/07-GP-II dated 11 June and 15 October, 2008 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That by their very nature, such transnational pipeline projects involve protracted discussions with various foreign Governments and other parties. This necessitates examination in detail of various proposed agreements and different aspects of these projects. The decision of selling the gas rests with the foreign Governments and is not within the jurisdiction of the Indian Government. Further, discussions with the foreign Governments on these projects are confidential and are very sensitive in nature. While answering the question, all the relevant information, which could be furnished, is included in our reply, without prejudicing or jeopardizing the discussions on these projects and breaching the confidentiality agreement signed therein. Therefore, while fulfilling the assurance, no additional information can be furnished, which could

prejudice the discussions and/or breach the confidentiality agreement. It may, therefore, not be in public interest to furnish any additional information till negotiations are concluded and the projects are completed. It may take several years to fulfill these assurances as such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

Against this background, replies to such questions which are given on the basis of information available may not be construed as an assurance to fulfill a demand."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with the approval of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have requested the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the assurance.

6. In this connection it is submitted that the Committee at their sitting held on 19 December, 2007 considered Memorandum No.16 containing requests for dropping the assurances given in replies to (i) Starred Question No.305 dated 24 March, 2005 regarding 'Indo-Iran gas pipeline project', (ii) Starred Question No.669 dated 12 May, 2005 regarding 'India-Bangladesh-Myanmar Pipeline' and (iii) Unstarred Question No.387 dated 24 November, 2005 regarding 'Indo-Bangladesh-Myanmar gas pipeline' and decided to drop all the three assurances inter-alia on the ground that the discussion with the foreign Governments on these projects are confidential and sensitive in nature.

## [vii] CARGO FLIGHTS IN POSTAL SERVICES

On 05 May, 2008 Shri E.G. Sugavanam, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.5271 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology:-

> "(a) whether the postal department operates daily cargo, flights to some destinations in the country;
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof ;
>
> (c) whether the Government has proposed to extend the facility in various other destinations in near future;
>
> (d) if so, the details thereof; and
>
> (e) if not, not the reasons therefor?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia) stated as follows:-

> "(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has chartered one Cargo plane from Air India for a period of one year. The Cargo plane operates on Kolkata-Guwahati-Imphal-Agartala-Kolkata route six days a week.
>
> (c) to (e) The Department has a plan scheme on wet lease of three freighter aircraft for conveyance of mail for major cities in the 11th Plan. However, the scheme is yet to be approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 04 August, 2008, but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology *vide* their O.M. No.29-8/08-D dated 24 November, 2008 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the reply has given the factual information about the status of the scheme, which is already a part of the 11th Plan. Its approval and further implementation is part of the normal process that would follow according to rules/ instructions. No assurance has been given in the reply for any action beyond the scheme, which is already a part of the 11th Plan."

5. The Ministry have also stated that this request for the deletion of the assurance have the approval of the Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology.

## [viii] CONSTRUCTION OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL

On 24 November, 1997, Shrimati Sarada Tadiparthi , M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 765 to the Minister of Human Resource Development:-

> "(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Government to construct a freedom memorial as part of the 50 years celebration of India's Independence; and
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the memorial?"

2. In reply, the then Minister for Human Resource Development (Shri S.R. Bommai) stated as follows:-

> "(a) & (b): The National Committee for the Commemoration of 50 years of India's Independence have approved the idea of the construction of a freedom memorial and also desired that a group of historians should be commissioned to re-draft the Concept Note. An expert Committee has been set up to look into the technical, historical and architectural and other details. The said expert committee has met twice to consider the matter in detail. The Government is yet to take a decision on the recommendations of the expert committee."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 23 February, 1998. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 31 December, 2007 to implement the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Culture vide their O.M. No. 14-31/97-India 50/C&M dated 6 May, 2008 and 19 March, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurance on the following ground:-

> "That this assurance could not be fulfilled as the Expert Committee set up to look into the technical, historical and architectural and for construction of Freedom Memorial did not work-out the details and made specific recommendations to the Government for appropriate decision. The Secretariat for the commemoration of 50 years of India's Independence was also subsequently wound up. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs therefore was requested to move the Committee on Government Assurances for Deletion of the assurances pending against the name of India 50 Secretariat.
>
> Government of India is now commemorating the 150th Year of First War of Independence, 1857, 60th Year of India's Independence and other related events has constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Man Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister and a National Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Arjun Singh, Hon'ble Minister, HRD to chalk out the programmes etc.

One of the projects approved by the National Implementation Committee is construction of a Freedom of Memorial, The Implementing Agency for this project is Ministry of Urban Development. They have constituted a Committee for the purpose and further action is now to be undertaken in the Ministry of Urban Development. Since the assurance given in 1997 was for the Freedom Memorial that assurance should be considered as subsumed in this decision of the NIC to erect a Freedom Memorial.

In view of the development mentioned above, it is requested that the assurance which is pending may be deleted as Ministry of Urban Development is now engaged with the erection of Freedom Memorial."

5. In view of the fact stated above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister (T&C), have requested to drop the assurance.

## [ix] ENERGY POLICY

On 19 March, 2008 Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar and Prof. M. Ramadass, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2772 to the Prime Minister:-

> "(a) whether the Government proposes to announce a long term Energy Policy with a view to promote environment friendly sources of energy;
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof; and
>
> (c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State of in the Ministry of Planning (Shri M.V. Rajasekharan) stated as follows:-

> "(a): Planning Commission released the Expert Committee Report on the Integrated Energy Policy (IEP) in August, 2006. The IEP lays specific emphasis on promoting environmental friendly sources of energy.
>
> (b): The details are available in the IEP report at the Planning Commission website www.planningcommission.nic.in.
>
> (c): Several recommendations of the IEP Report are already under implementation while other recommendations are under consideration by the various line Ministries/Departments."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Planning Commission (Department of Energy Division) within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 18 June, 2008, but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time by six months i.e. upto 18 December, 2008 or till the Committee consider dropping request.

4. The Planning Commission *vide* their O.M. No.M-12026/6/2008-Coal dated 17 July, 2008 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That any reply given in the Parliament based on the IEP recommendations may not have definite time frame of implementation. Instead, constitution of Committee of Secretaries (COS) to monitor implementation may be treated as compliance."

5. In view of the above, the Planning Commission (Power & Energy Division) with the approval of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning have requested the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the assurance.

## [x] AGREEMENT OF HAL WITH BOEING

On 17 March, 2008, Sarvashri Sugrib Singh, Kishanbhai V. Patel and Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, MPs addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2502 to the Minister of Defence:-

"(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a MoU with Boeing to source sub-system for fighter aircraft and helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether negotiations are also going on with Boeing for purchase of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) patrol aircraft for Indian Navy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of new areas of cooperations likely to come up after the operation of such MoU?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State for Defence Production (Shri Rao Inderjit Singh) stated as follows:-

"(a) Yes, Sir.

(a) An MoU has been signed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with Boeing in December, 2007 which envisages exploration of business opportunities principally relating to defence related work packages.

(b) & (d) : The proposal regarding procurement of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft is in progress.

(e) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is expected to be benefited through enhanced export opportunities, development of new technologies and processes; and implementation of best practices and skills for global competitiveness."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Defence within three months of the date of the reply. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 16 June, 2009 to implement the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Defence vide their O.M. F.No. 54014/4/2008/D(HAL-II) dated 26 September, 2008 requested for dropping the assurance on the ground:-

"That divulging further details in this regard will not be in the National interest."

5. In view of the fact stated above, the Ministry with the approval of Minister of State for Defence Production, have requested to drop the assurance.

## [xi] SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY QUARTERS

On 20 March, 2008 Shri Rakesh Singh, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2951 to the Minister of Railways:-

> "(a) whether the Railways are likely to take cognizance of the shortage of houses for railway employees under Western-Central Railway Zone, Jabalpur;
>
> (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
>
> (c) whether there are enough houses available to meet the demand of these employees; and
>
> (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which these houses are likely to be allotted to them?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (SHRI R. VELU) stated as follows:-

> "(a) to (d) : There is no shortage of quarters for the railway employees posted in the Divisions of the West Central Railway. However, there is minor shortage of quarters for the employees posted in the Zonal Headquarters office, Jabalpur. Additional quarters are under construction. For the new zone, 499 number of quarters are sanctioned, out of which 313 number of new quarters have been completed as on 31.01.08. Rest of the quarters are targeted to be completed by end of September, 2008. 50 number of leased accommodation has also been sanctioned for officers out of which 45 has been utilized. Quarters will be allotted to the employees as soon as these are available."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of the reply . However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have not sought any extension of time to implement the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Railways vide their O.M. No. 2008/LMB/16/11 dated 16 December, 2008 have requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the construction of staff quarters is a continuous process for which tentative targets are fixed, however, actual completion of the construction depends on a wide variety of factors like priorities of works, availability of funds, response of the contractors etc. Similarly, allotment of staff quarters to the employees is a continuous process. Quarters are allotted depending on availability, vacancy position, demands position etc., for which target time cannot be laid."

5. In view of the fact stated above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Railways, have requested to drop the assurance.

## [xii] TRADE TALK UNDER WTO

On 22 April, 2008 Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.4175 to the Minister of Commerce & Industry:-

> "(a) the details of road blocks in WTO talks with India; and
>
> (b) the steps taken by the Government to conclude the current round of trade talks under the aegis of WTO?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State of in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Jairam Ramesh) stated as follows:-

> "(a) The multilateral trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the Doha Work Programme, which were launched in November 2001, are still in progress. These negotiations have not yet concluded mainly due to gaps in the positions of WTO Members, particularly in respect of market access and domestic support issues in agriculture and market access issues in non-agricultural products. On 08 February 2008, the Chairpersons of the WTO's Committee on Agriculture (Special Session) and the Negotiating Group on Market Access brought out the Revised Texts on Draft Modalities on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) respectively. The WTO Members are currently holding negotiations on these Revised Draft Modalities texts on Agriculture and NAMA and also on other issues covered by the Doha Work Programme, such as Services, Rules including Fisheries Subsidies, etc.
>
> (b) Throughout the negotiations, India has been working constructively with coalition partners in developing country groupings in the WTO, such as the G-20, the G-33 and NAMA 11 and also with developed country Members with a view to achieving an outcome that would appropriately reflect the development dimension of the Doha mandate."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 21 July, 2008, but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 21 January, 2009.

4. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry *vide* their O.M. No.14/16/2008-TPD dated 9 June, 2008 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Doha Work Programme, launched in November 2001 are still in progress. WTO Members are engaged actively in these negotiations with a view to reaching a final outcome. It is not known as to when the final outcome would be reached. In view of this it is requested that the above assurance may be deleted from the list of pending Government Assurances. As per the existing practice, the Department of Commerce has been keeping both Houses of

Parliament informed of the progress in these negotiations as considered appropriate."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of the then Minister of State for Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have requested the Committee on Government Assurances to consider the deletion of the assurance.

## [xiii] OVERSEAS JOINT VENTURES

On 20 March, 2008, Sarvashri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy and Hemlal Murmu, MPs addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3048 to the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers :-

> "(a) whether the Government has been considering more overseas joint ventures in view of the increasing demand for fertilizers in the country; and
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof?"

2. 2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri B.K. Handique) stated as follows:-

> "(a) & (b) : The Government is exploring the possibility of setting up of joint ventures abroad in resource rich countries by the Indian entities. The discussions in this direction are at an initial stage only and no proposal has been finalized yet."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 19 June, 2008. However, the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have not sought any extension of time to implement the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers vide their O.M. No. 14024/5/2008-FP dated 5 January, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That it is not feasible to fulfill the assurance since dialogue with various companies of different countries on establishment of joint ventures in fertilizer sector abroad is at initial stage only. Involvement of different type of risks i.e., assured supply of natural gas, raw material, logistics problem in implementation of joint venture fertilizer plant abroad can not be denied. Hence concrete details i.e., the name of the country where the joint venture is to be established, expected time, execution of plant, cost of investment, annual production can not be given at this juncture."

5. In view of the fact stated above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister (Chemicals, Fertilizers and Steel), have requested to drop the assurance.

[xiv] NEIGHBOURHOOD APPAREL & TEXTILE TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR JOB ASSURANCE

On 05 May, 2008 Shri Badiga Ramakrishna, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.5331 to the Minister of Textiles:-

> "(a) the number of Neighbourhood Apparel & Textile Training Institute for Job Assurance (NATIJA) are functioning at present in the country, State-wise;
>
> (b) the aims and objectives of NATIJA;
>
> (c) the number of persons benefited during each year of Tenth Plan and proposed to be benefited each year of Eleventh Plan under NATIJA, State-wise; and
>
> (d) the funds allocated, released and spent thereon during each year of Tenth Plan and thereafter till date, State-wise?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State of in the Ministry of Textiles (Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan) stated as follows:-

> "(a) to (c): The Scheme of "Neighbourhood Apparel & Textile Training Institutes for Job Assurance (NATIJA)" has been formulated during the Eleventh Plan period for establishing a network of employment-linked training facilities in basic garment manufacturing technology. The Scheme is designed to meet the projected demand of 4 million trained workers required in the garment industry over the next 4-5 years. The Scheme, *inter-alia*, aims at setting up training facilities at District and Sub-District levels across the country to provide gainful employment to the disadvantaged sections in the regional and local economy. The existing training institutions in the Government and the Private sector, including the Power-looms Service Centres (PSCs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Weaver Service Centres (WSCs), Textile Research Associations (TRAs), Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs), etc, could be considered for locating such centres in the initial phase. The objective is to restructure/ re-orient the existing training institutes by upgrading their infrastructure commensurate with the needs of the Industry in the changing global market scenario. Creation of new training centres may be considered subsequently to meet the demand, as and when required. Since the Scheme is yet to be finalized, no further details are available at this stage.
>
> (d): Does not arise."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Textiles within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 4 August, 2008, but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

4. The Ministry of Textiles *vide* their O.M. No.4/8/2008-NMCC dated 11 September, 2008 have requested for dropping the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the Planning Commission has expressed inability to accommodate the new scheme, namely, the 'Neighbourhood Apparel and Textiles Training Institutes for Job Assurance (NATIJA)' due to fund constraints in the current Five Year Plan. Hence this Ministry has decided to drop the proposal."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles have requested the Committee on Government Assurances to drop the assurance.

## [xv] TRIBAL RESERVED CONSTITUENCY IN SIKKIM LEGISLATURE

On 25 July, 2006 Shri Moni Kumar Subba, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 160 to the Minister of Home Affairs:-

> "(a) whether the Government intends to increase the Tribal Reserved Constituency in the Sikkim Legislature on recognition of the tribals, Tamangs and Limboos as Scheduled Tribes; and
>
> (b) if so, the salient features thereof along with the decision taken by the Government in this regard?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit) stated as follows:-

> "(a)&(b): Presently, in the 32-Member Legislative Assembly of Sikkim, 12 seats are reserved for Sikkimese of Bhutia Lepcha origin, two seats are reserved for Scheduled Casts of the State and one seat is reserved for Sangha. Earlier only Bhutia and Lepcha communities were included in the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978. After recognition in 2003 of Tamangs and Limboos as Scheduled Tribes, the State Government has requested the Union Government to increase the strength of the Assembly from 32 to 40 and to provide reservation of seats for Tamangs and Limboos in proportion to their population without disturbing the twelve seats reserved for Bhutia and Lepchas. The request of the State Government is under examination."

3. The above reply was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 24 October, 2006 but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have not sought any extension of time to fulfill the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. IV/13012/4/2006-CSR.II dated 17 April, 2009 have requested for dropping of the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "that in 2003, the Limboo and Tamang communities were notified as Scheduled Tribes. Subsequently a demand came up to provide for reservation of seats under Art 332(1) of the Constitution of India for the Limboo and Tamang communities.
>
> The demand of the Sikkim Government was examined by a Working Group set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs for the purpose. The Working Group recommended that it is constitutionally valid and possible to agree to the request of the State Government to increase the Assembly seats from 32 to 40. However, the Working Group was of the view that the Government of India should not force this option and leave it preferably to the State Government to pass an unambiguous and consensual resolution on the numbers and make specific recommendation in this regard. The Working Group advocated this because allocation of seats by Government of India to different sections has the potential of disturbing the existing ethnic balance and may have an impact on the law and order situation.

The State Government was accordingly asked to furnish an unambiguous and consensual resolution passed by the Assembly regarding increase in the number of seats and making specific recommendations. According to the State Government there is no authentic record of the population of Limboos and Tamangs. However, according to the Socio-Economic Survey their population is about 16.5%. The State Government has now furnished a resolution passed unanimously to the effect that total number of seats in the Sikkim Assembly be increased to 40, which may be distributed among the different communities in the following manner:-

| Community | Seats | Population Percentage | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bhutia-Lepcha | 12 | 20.50 | Should not be disturbed |
| Sanghas | 1 | | |
| Others (including Scheduled Castes, Limboos & Tamangs) | 27 | 79.50 | SCs with 5.03% population have 2 seats. Seats for STs (Limboos & Tamangs) may be decided out of remaining 25 seats as per proportion of their population. |

It would, however, be observed that the proposal of the Government of Sikkim in respect of reserving seats for the Limboos and Tamangs is incompelete as the number of seats to be reserved for these two communities has not been specified.

Determination of the exact population of Limboos and Tamangs in the State would be possible after the 2011 census report is available and thereafter only, it would be possible for the Government to determine the number of seats to be reserved for Limboo & Tamang communities on the basis of their proportion to the total population following due consultation with the State Government, keeping in view the exercise of delimitation of constituencies. Thereafter, approval of the Parliament in respect of the proposal for constitutional amendment increasing the number of Assembly seats in Sikkim would have to be sought. Thus, even if the proposal for such Constitutional amendment does not encounter any objection, the time that may be needed for completion of the exercise cannot be estimated at this stage.

In terms of the instructions relating to fulfilling Parliamentary Assurances if the Ministry/Department feel that it is not feasible to fulfill the same for any valid reason, they may write with the approval of the Minister/Minister of State incharge of the concerned Ministry/Department to the Committee on Government Assurances requesting for the deletion of the assurance and that such requests should be based on cogent and convincing reasons.

As explained above, there are good and sufficient reasons that the present proposal cannot be fulfilled within a reasonable time. It is, therefore, requested that the matter may please be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha with the request to consider deletion of the assurance from the list of pending assurances."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (J) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, have requested to drop the above assurance.

## [xvi] LUXURY TOURIST TRAINS

On 19 February, 2009, Shri Naveen Jindal, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 338 to the Minister of Railways:-

"(a) whether luxury train tourism facilities are being increased due to its popularity;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the number of passengers who have travelled in these trains during the last two years and the revenue earned on this account;
(d) Whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce luxury tourist trains on some new routes; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. R. Velu) *inter alia* stated as follows:-

(a)& (b) Yes,Sir.One more luxury tourist train Royal Rajasthan on Wheels has been launched recently in addition to existing trains Palace on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey and Golden Chariot.

(c) The number of passengers travelled and the Railways share of earning from operation of luxury tourist trains during the last two tourist seasons, i.e. September to August next year, are as under:

| **Train** | **2006-07** | | **2007-08** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Number of Passengers** | **Railways' earning (Rs. in lakhs)** | **Number of Passengers** | **Railways' earning (Rs. in lakhs)** |
| **Palace on Wheels** | **3614** | **2003.94** | **3724** | **2102.31** |
| **Heritage on Wheels** | **739** | **45.47** | **1000** | **61.68** |
| **Deccan Odyssey** | **813** | **265.68** | **1069** | **355.22** |
| **Golden Chariot** | **-** | **-** | **118** | **149.03** |

(d) & (e) One Luxury tourist train each in association with Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. has been approved. The routes/itinerary are not finalized."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Railways by 18 May, 2009. However the assurance is yet to be fulfilled. The Ministry have sought extension of time for 2 years for implementing the assurance.

4. The Ministry of Railways *vide* their O.M.No.2009/Tourism/100/2 dated 24 June, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds: -

"that the Ministry of Railways have approved one luxury tourist train each in association with Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board (PHTPB) & Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the route/itinerary has still not finalized. On an average, it takes about 2 years for introduction of a luxury tourist train from the date of finalization of the design by the respective partners i.e. PHTPB & IRCTC in this case. The coaches for IRCTC train had to be got manufactured directly by them and in the case of PHTPB, the designs are yet to be finalized. Therefore, it will take at least 2 more years for introduction of these luxury tourist trains. Except for the manufacturing of bare shells of the train, the Railways role is very limited and the implementation of the project will depend more on IRCTC and PHTPB. The route/itinerary is also finalized by PHTPB & IRCTC subject to operational feasibility. Therefore, it is requested that the reply to the question may not be treated as an Assurance as the responsibility for fulfilling the same are more with IRCTC and PHTPB than the Railways."

5. In view of the above the Ministry with the approval of Minister of State for Railways have requested for deletion of the assurance from the list of pending assurances of dropping.

## [xvii] TRANSPORTATION OF GAS

On 14 December, 2006 Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, MP and Shri Harin Pathak, MP addressed the following Starred Question No. 329 to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

"(a) the norms/criteria laid down for fixing transportation charges for transporting gas in different areas;

(b) whether some State Governments have demanded changes in the existing policy and requested for some benefits because of lower cost for transporting gas over shorter distance ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?"

2. In reply, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Shri Dinsha Patel) stated as follows:-

"MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 329 BY DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA AND SHRI HARIN PATHAK MPs REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF GAS

(a): Transportation charge is calculated over the period of contract and is specific to the investment and economic life of the pipeline/gas source. Its calculation is based on estimated capital cost, O& M expenses, estimated manpower cost, period of contract, reasonable rate of return, etc.

However, in case of trunk lines, namely, Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline and Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL), a combined single tariff of Rs.831/MSCM, with escalation formula, is being followed w.e.f. 1-6-2006. The tariff for connectivity of Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) to DVPL has been kept at Rs. 280/MSCM for the benefit of customers in Gujarat.

(b) & (c): Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) requested that full DVPL transmission charge should not be charged from Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) for gas flowing through the GAIL pipeline network before entering the GSPL pipeline network. However no such request was received from the Government of Gujarat.

Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APTRANSCO) requested that transportation tariff for power projects in the KG Basin network should be

reduced. This was followed by request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh as well.

(d): In order to benefit the customers of Gujarat, the Government decided, w.e.f. 1-6-06, that the combined single tariff of Rs. 831/MSCM for use of DVPL need not be paid by GSPL`s customers and the connectivity charges of GSPL to DVPL were kept at Rs. 280/MSCM only.

The Government has revised the transportation tariff of KG Basin gas supply network, w.e.f. 1.11.2006, for all the customers on these networks as follows:

Tatipaka - Kakinada - Kovuur network Rs. 413/MSCM Tatipaka Kondapalli network Rs. 1,056/MSCM."

3. During discussion Shri Madhusudan Mistry, MP raised the following supplementary:-

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand of the Government of Gujarat was that instead of giving royalty on their gas, there is a quota which is to be allotted to the Government of Gujarat, and it was demanding not less than 25 per cent of the quota for the Government of Gujarat. Sir, instead of providing royalty, they should provide quota of gas, which is 25 per cent, and then the Gujarat Government can sell it. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether there is any such proposal lying in his Ministry."

4. In reply the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stated as follows:-

"I will think over it and then tell".

5. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas within three months of the date of the reply *i.e*. by 13 February, 2007. However, the assurance is yet to be fulfilled. The Ministry of Home Affairs have not sought any extension of time to fulfill the assurance.

6. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide their O.M. No. L-15014/39/06-GP dated 7.11.2008 requested to drop the above assurance on the following grounds:-

"It is stated that natural gas is a national asset. Natural gas has been held to be a "petroleum product", which is mentioned in item 53 of Union List in the VII Schedule of the Constitution. As such, issues concerning natural gas are to be decided by the Union of India. Such national assets are used to meet the requirements of the country and it would not be feasible to provide any quota to the states having such resources. In view of this, there is no proposal to provide a certain quota of gas to the Government of Gujarat for selling it. Accordingly, this assurance needs to be dropped."

7. Accordingly, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, have requested to drop the assurance.

## [xviii] REFORMATION OF EDUCATION POLICY AND NEW EDUCATION POLICY

On 4 December, 2007, Shri Balasheb Vikhe Patil, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2488 to the Minister of Human Resource Development:-

> "(a) the Status of the Education Policy;
> (b) whether the need of the hour is for a complete transformation in education; and
> (c) if so, the details of reforms being undertaken in the Education Policy with reference to SC, ST, OBC and weaker sections of the society?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Smt. D. Purandeswari) stated as follows:-

> "(a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels for children living in rural and urban areas. The matter regarding formulation of a new Education Policy is under consideration of the Government.

3. On 21 October, 2008, Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, M.Ps., addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 602 to the Minister of Human Resource Development:-

> "(a) whether the Government proposes to frame a new education policy; and
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof?"

4. In reply, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Smt. D. Purandeswari) stated as follows:-

> "(a) & (b) This, being a policy matter, is under consideration."

5. The replies to the above questions were treated as assurances and were required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months of the date of the replies *i.e.* by 3 March, 2008 and 21 January, 2009. However the assurances have not been implemented so far.

6. The Ministry of Human Resource Development vide their O.M. Nos. F. NO. 6-26/2007/PN-I and F.No. 6-25/2008 - PN-I dated 1 June, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds: -

> "that issue of review of Education Policy was discussed in the 55th CABE meeting held on 10.02.2009 and a demand has been made that a National debate should be held on this issue. As this process will take a long time, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development has desired that Committee on Government Assurances may be requested to kindly delete the Assurance from the list of pending Assurances."

7. In view of the above, the Ministry with the approval of Minister of State for Human Resource Development have requested that the above assurances may be dropped.

## [xix] CLOSURE OF DFP & SONG & DRAMA DIVISION, ABOLITION OF POSTS, RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXPENDITURE REFORMS COMMISSION AND CLOSURE OF DIRECTORATE OF FILM FESTIVALS

On 24 March, 2005 Shri Rupchand Murmu, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 3360 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting:-

"(a) whether the Government has decided to close down the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Song and Drama Division;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government will downsize any other media unit; and

(d) if so, the details along with the reasons therefore?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture (Shri S. Jaipal Reddy) stated as follows :-

"(a),(b),(c)&(d): The Committee of Secretaries in its meeting held on 28th April, 2004 considered the various aspects of implementation of Expenditure Reforms Commission's recommendations in respect of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and, *inter alia,* proposed that the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP) and Song & Drama Division be closed down and the Photo Division, Publications Division and Films Division shall be downsized substantially. The matter is proposed to be discussed again before the Committee of Secretaries after completion of detailed review of the various issues and options. A final decision in the matter has not yet been taken."

3. On 5 May, 2005 Shri Rupchand Murmu, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 6100 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting:-

"(a) whether the Government has decided to downsize the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has identified posts in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for abolition; and

(d) if so, the number of posts identified for abolition?"

4. In reply, the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture (Shri S. Jaipal Reddy) stated as follows :-

"(a) to (d): The Expenditure Reforms Commission has, *inter alia*, recommended winding up Films Division, Photo Division, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Publications Division, handing over of Film & Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals to Film Industry and Children's Film Society, India, to Non-Governmental Organisations; disinvesting National Film Development Corporation Limited and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/ rationalizing the role of other units.

These recommendations are being processed. A final decision has not yet been taken."

5. On 11 August, 2005 Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2823 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting:-

"(a) whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting examined the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations which have been accepted and implemented by the Ministry;

(c) the details of recommendations which have not been accepted by the Ministry along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of recommendations on which decision has not been taken so far and time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?"

6. In reply, the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture (Shri S. Jaipal Reddy) stated as follows :-

"(a),(b),(c)&(d): The Expenditure Reforms Commission has, *inter alia*, recommended winding up Films Division, Photo Division, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Publications Division, handing over of Film & Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals to Film Industry and the Children's Film Society, India, to Non-Governmental Organisations; disinvesting National Film Development Corporation and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/ rationalizing the role of other units.

The recommendations were examined in consultation with the heads of the media units of the Ministry and a response was sent to the Ministry of Finance.

The matter regarding implementation of the ERC's recommendations was placed before the Committee of Secretaries which in its meeting held on 28th April, 2004, *inter alia* recommended that:

> "The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall implement the ERC recommendations and Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall quickly propose a road map for the implementation of the recommendations. The Field Publicity and Song & Drama Division shall be closed down and the Photo Division, Publications Division and Films Division shall be downsized substantially. The disinvestments of Naitonal Films Development Corporation and Broadcast Engineering Consultants of India Limited may be deferred."

No final decision on any of the recommendations has been taken so far."

7. On 19 March, 2007 Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi, MP addressed the following Unstarred Question No. 2713 to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting:-

"(a) whether the Government proposes to close down the Directorate of Film Festivals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with its annual expenditure; and

(c) strategy adopted/proposed to be adopted by the Government to organize Film Festivals once the Directorate is closed down?"

8. In reply, the then Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs (Shri P.R. Dasmunsi) stated as follows :-

"(a): No Sir. However, the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its 2nd Report has, *inter alia*, recommended closure of the Directorate of Film Festivals with a further recommendation that organisation and participation in Film Festivals be left to the industry. A final decision on this recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission is expected soon."

(b) & (c): Does not arise."

9. The above replies to the questions were treated as assurances and were required to be implemented by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within three months of the date of the reply but the assurances are yet to be implemented.

10. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide their O.M. No. 14/1/2005-Admn IV dated 21 April, 2009 have requested for dropping the assurances on the following grounds:-

> "Since this Ministry was in disagreement with the Expenditure Reforms Commission's (ERC) recommendations for closure of some of the Media Units, especially, the Directorate of Field Publicity and Song & Drama Division, the matter was referred to Cabinet Secretariat for placing the same before the Committee of Secretaries (COS) for reconsideration. However, the Cabinet Secretariat vide their U.O. No. 331/21/2006-CA.IV dated 22.08.2006 informed that all the matters of differences between the Ministry and recommendations of ERC would be dealt with by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
>
> As the discussion between the officers of Ministry of I&B and Department of Expenditure could not be held, a note (in respect of Information and Films Wing) was sent to Department of Expenditure, giving details of the steps taken by this Ministry to downsize the staff strength and further proposals of this Ministry vide D.O. letter No. 17/1/2006-Admn.IV(Vol.II) dated 31.10.2008. Department of Expenditure vide their D.O. letter No. 1(82)/E.Cord/00(I&B), dated 1.1.2009 have informed that they have noted the steps taken and the proposed plan of action drawn by this Ministry and has conveyed its concurrence to the proposal of this Ministry not to implement the ERC recommendations beyond what has already been implemented. The approval is subject to the advice that a comprehensive review may be carried out of the organizational structure with a view to streamline operations and reduce manpower, where feasible.
>
> In view of the concurrence conveyed by Department of Expenditure, this Ministry do not propose to take any further action on the recommendations of the ERC."

11. In view of the facts stated above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, have requested to drop the assurance.

## [xx] PANCHESHWAR POWER PROJECT

On 14 March, 2008 Shri Iliyas Azmi, M.P., addressed the following Unstarred Question No.2275 to the Minister of Power:-

> "(a) whether Pancheshwar Power Project was formulated many years back with the collaboration of Nepal to generate 5000 megawatt of power;
>
> (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such a long pendency; and
>
> (c) the efforts being made by the Government in commissioning of this project?"

2. In reply, the Minister of Power (Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde) stated as follows:-

> "(a) to (c) : India and Nepal have agreed, under the 1996 Mahakali Treaty, to jointly develop the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (5600 MW) on the Mahakali river, where it forms the border between the two countries. Field investigations have been completed. To finalize the Detailed Project Report (DPR), there are some outstanding issues which are yet to be resolved between India and Nepal. These issues are –
>
> (i) Assessment of water availability downstream of Pancheshwar Dam
>
> (ii) Evaluation of re-regulating dam site (Purnagiri or Rupaligad)
>
> (iii) Project benefits
>
> (iv) Evaluation of power installation and phased development
>
> (v) Cost apportionment.
>
> These issues were discussed in the 20th meeting of the Joint Group of Expert (JGE) of India & Nepal held in October, 2004, wherein it was decided to form a small Joint Group under the Chief Engineers concerned to look into all these issues.The Group held its first meeting from 20-21 December, 2004 at Kathmandu. Further discussions have not taken place with Nepal."

3. Reply to the above question was treated as an assurance and required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Power within three months of the date of reply *i.e.* by 13 June, 2008.

4. The Ministry of Power *vide* their D.O. No.05/05/2008-BBMB dated 06 May, 2008 requested the Committee to drop the assurance on the following grounds "the Detailed Power Project (DPR) for the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project not having been finalized so far due to some issues which are outstanding between India and Nepal. This position does not amount to any assurance at all. Moreover, the feasibility of settling such an issue which requires bilateral engagement with a foreign country, in the near future is highly unlikely".

5. This request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 24.9.2008. The Committee decided not to drop the assurance and desired a status report on bilateral talks between India and Nepal on the subject and outcome thereof before taking a final decision.

6. Accordingly, the Ministry have furnished the desired information and also requested vide O.M. No. 05/05/2008 – BBMB dated 27 October, 2008 and 09 April, 2009 to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That matters relating to the development of water resources of common rivers with Nepal are coordinated by the Ministry of Water Resources. The Pancheshwar Project in Nepal was reviewed in the 3rd meeting of the Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held in Kathmandu from 29th September to 1st October, 2008 and led on both the sides at the level of Secretary (Water Resource). The following decision was taken in the respect of the project:-
>
> "Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project
>
> (i) The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project was identified as a priority project and the JCWR reviewed the current status of discussions on issues related to location of re-regulating dam, unit size and installed capacity of the power plants, assessment of project benefits in terms of irrigation and power to India and Nepal and sharing of the project cost by the two sides.
>
> (ii) The JCWR decided to set up a Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) at the earliest in accordance with Article 10 of the Mahakali Treaty for the development, execution and operation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. The composition of the PDA is attached at Annexure [copy attached]".

7. The Ministry of Power with the approval of the then Minister of Power have again requested to re-consider the dropping of this assurance.

## [xxi] NATIONAL POLICY ON SUBSIDIES

On 6 May, 2005 Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, MP addressed the following Starred Question No. 595 to the Minister of Finance:-

"(a) the salient features of national policy on subsidies;

(b) steps contemplated thereunder to ensure that the benefits of subsidies reach the poor who really deserve it; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to trim the subsidies, in accordance with the new national policy?"

2. In reply, the then Minister of Finance (Shri P. Chidambaram) stated as follows:-

" (a), (b) & (c): The National Common Minimum Programme mandates the Government to target all subsidies to the poor and truly needy sections of the society. In pursuance of this, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) was asked to submit a study on subsidies. Based on this study, a report, "Central Government subsidies in India", was placed in the Parliament on December 23, 2004. This Report was discussed in a meting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance on February 8, 2005. Formulation of a National Policy on Subsidies would evolve out of a broad based consensus through proposed wider discussions with various stakeholders and due process of consultation."

3. The above reply to the question was treated as an assurance and was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Finance within three months of the date of the reply *i.e.* by 5 August, 2005. However, the assurance was implemented partly vide Statement SSI/47 on 18 August, 2005 in which the Ministry stated as follows:-

"Discussions were held with the stakeholders of food and fertilizer subsidies on 25 May, 2005 and with the stakeholders of petroleum subsidies on 25 May, 2005 and with the stakeholders of petroleum subsidies on 30 May, 2005. The agenda and minutes of this meeting were put up on the website of Ministry of Finance for public comments. As such, the required action has been completed.

However the policy would have to be approved by the Government after inter-ministerial consultations.

The Ministry of Finance have sought extension of time upto 30 November, 2009 to fulfill the assurance."

4. The Minister of Finance vide their D.O. No. 1(74)/Ec.Dn/2005 dated 2.9.2009 have requested to treat the assurance as fulfilled on the following grounds:-

> "That since the reply to the question mentioned about wider consultation and discussions with the stakeholders in the process of evolving a National Policy, the implementation report in fulfillment of the assurance was submitted after this exercise was over. The reply to the question did not envisage any time limit for approval of the policy. As such, this assurance has remained pending since 21.8.2007 necessitating periodic extensions."

5. Accordingly, the Minister of Finance have requested to drop the assurance.

Appendix-II
*(Vide Para 5 of the Report)*

MINUTES

SECOND SITTING

Minutes of the second sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 29 October, 2009 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1200 hours to 1300 hours on Thursday, 29 October, 2009.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
4. Shri Mohan Jena
5. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
6. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
7. Shri Takam Sanjoy

Secretariat

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shrimati Veena Kumari | - | Deputy Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and apprised them briefly about the agenda for the sitting.

Thereafter, the Committee considered requests for dropping of assurances. After in depth deliberations, of all such cases, the Committee were convinced with the reasonings adduced by the Ministry and decided to drop 21 assurances as per details given *vide* Annexure-I. The Committee also decided to retain 29 assurances, which are to be pursued further, as per details given in Annexure-II.

*The Committee then adjourned to meet again on 12th November, 2009.*

Annexure-I

Details of Assurances Dropped by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 29.10.2009

| Sl. No. 1 | Memo No. 2 | Question No./Discussion etc. 3 | Ministry/Department 4 | Brief subject 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | General discussion on 12.5.93 | Social Justice and Empowerment | Creamy layer Committee constituted by UP Govt. |
| 2. | 4 | USQ No. 3533 dt. 12 December, 2000 | Human Resources Development | Integrated Education for Disabled Children |
| 3. | 6 | USQ No. 2569 dt. 14 March, 2001 | External Affairs | Visit of Foreign Delegations' to India |
| 4. | 9 | SQ No. 125 dt. 10 December, 2003 - supplementary by Smt. Nivedita Mane, | Shipping | Creation of Capacity by private sector in Ports |
| 5. | 10 | USQ No. 401 dt. 2 March, 2005 | Shipping, Road, Transport and Highways | Revival of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. |
| 6. | 16 | USQ No. 955 dt. 22 November, 2007 | Petroleum and Natural Gas | Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline |
| 7. | 21 | USQ No.5271 dt. 05 May, 2008 | Communications and Information Technology | Cargo Flights in Postal Services |
| 8. | 24 | USQ No. 765 dt. 24 November, 1997 | Human Resource Development | Construction of Freedom Memorial |
| 9. | 25 | USQ No. 2772 dt. 19 March, 2008 | Planning | Energy Policy |
| 10. | 29 | USQ No. 2502 dt. 17 March, 2008 | Defence | Agreement of HAL with Boeing |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | 31 | USQ No. 2951 dt. 20 March, 2008 | Railways | Shortage of Railway Quarters |
| 12. | 33 | USQ No. 4175 dt. 22 April, 2008 | Commerce and Industry | Trade Talks under WTO |
| 13. | 34 | USQ No. 3048 dt. 20 March, 2008 | Chemicals and Fertilisers | Overseas Joint Ventures |
| 14. | 35 | USQ No. 5331 dt. 05 May, 2008 | Textiles | Neighborhood Apparel & Textile Training Institute for Job Assurance |
| 15. | 36 | USQ No. 160 dt. 25 July, 2006 | Home Affairs | Tribal Reserved Constituency in Sikkim Legislature. |
| 16. | 37 | USQ No. 338 dt. 19 February, 2009 | Railways | Luxury Tourist Trains |
| 17. | 40 | SQ No. 329 dt.14 December, 2006 supplementary by Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria | Petroleum and Natural Gas | Transportation of Gas |
| 18. | 41 | USQ Nos. 2488 &602 dt. 4 December, 2007 | Human Resource Development | 'Reformation of Education Policy' and 'New Education Policy' respectively |
| 19. | 46 | (i) USQ No. 3360 dt.24 March, 2005<br>(ii) USQ No. 6100 dt. 5 May, 2005<br>(iii) USQ No. 2823 dt. 11 August, 2005<br>(iv) USQ No. 2713 dt. 19 March, 2007 | Information and Broadcasting | Closure of Directorate of Field Publicity and Song & Drama Division etc. |
| 20. | 47 | USQ No. 2275 dt. 14 March, 2008 | Power | Pancheshwar Power Project |
| 21. | 51 | SQ No.595 dt. 6 May, 2005 | Finance | National Policy on Subsidies. |

# MINUTES

## SEVENTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) held on 10 December, 2009 in Committee Room '139', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Thursday 10 December, 2009.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Anandrao Adsul
3. Shri Mohan Jena
4. Shri Manohar Tirkey
5. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav

Secretariat

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Shri P. Sreedharan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri R.S. Kambo | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D.S. Malha | - | Additional Director |

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. Ms. Sujatha Rao, Secretary (H&FW)
2. Shri Vineet Choudhary, Joint Secretary
3. Shri Amarjeet Singh, ED
4. Smt. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Joint Secretary
5. Shri Debasish Panda, Joint Secretary
6. Shri Amit Mohan Prasad, Joint Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted Draft First, Second, Third and Fourth Reports regarding requests for dropping of assurances. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present them to the House.

2. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) were then called in and the Committee resumed the oral evidence in connection with the pending assurances.

3. The Committee sought clarifications on certain assurances which were replied to by the representatives of the Ministry.

4. The verbatim proceedings have been kept on record.

5. The Committee decided to review the remaining pending assurances on a later date.

***The Committee then adjourned.***